

THEREVOLUTION

PISSED OFF HARDCORE FANZINE | THE FIRST ISSUE

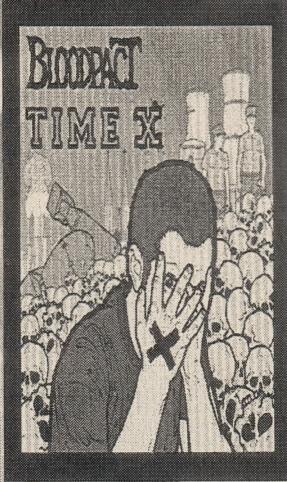


**INTERVIEWS WITH:
REFLECTIONS RECORDS | DAY
OF THE DEAD | FIXED STAR RECORDS
+ COLUMNS, PERSONAL WRITINGS AND PHOTOS**

best times records



Seize The Day / Time x - Split 7"
Limited Edition 300 Copies
Hand-Numbered
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Time x / Bloodpact - Split 7"
Split Release With
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Times Still Here - Compilation 7"
With: Day Of The Dead, Time x
The Fiends, Fight For Change



Day Of The Dead - s/t 7"
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Tape Available - 6 Songs

P.O.Box: 229 2686-997 Sacavém Portugal / E-mail: peter_x@clix.pt

TIME X

LISBON YOUTH CREW

Portugal political youth crew straight edge with their upcoming 7"EP on REFUSE RECORDS! 7 new raging and powerful songs and coversong of DYS will force you to jumping around and then to join our positive revolt! Available soon on REFUSE RECORDS.



TIME X
"Good moves not good players"
7"EP / cass

available now: SECOND AGE "The Tides Have Turned" CD /cass. Leading youth crew straight edge from Poland! ONLY WAY OUT "Only Way Out" 7"EP / cass. fast sXe hardcore from Poland. 10-song ep! REACHING FORWARD "The Conflict" cass. great holland old-school sXe with their recordings from first LP, split 7"s, comp. tracks and live. also available: ZLODZIEJE ROWEROW CD, PURE CD, GOOD CLEAN FUN tapes, BLOODPACT cass, SPINELESS cass, LIAR cass, BLINDFOLD cass, NATIONS ON FIRE cass, ZLODZIEJE ROWEROW s/t cass, CYMEON X cass... prices: CD \$8ppd, 7"EP \$4ppd, cassette \$3ppd send \$1 for mailorder catalog with lots of DIY hardcore releases and literature from the whole world. Distributions - write for wholesales or possible trades! upcoming releases: NEW WINDS new LP/CD, ZLODZIEJE ROWEROW "Ten moment" CD, International old-school HC compilation CD w/ Blind To See, Cita Attieksme, Crickbat, Feud, Mutiny, No Violence, Only Way Out, Pointing Finger, Razlog Za, Sincerity. KEEP THE DIY HARDCORE SPIRIT ALIVE!!!



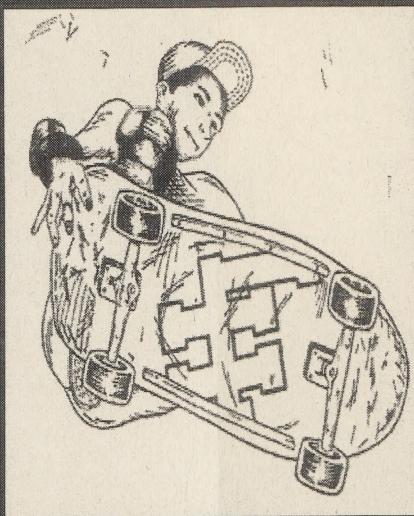
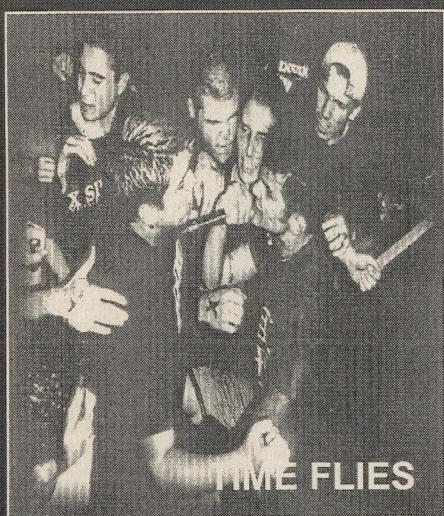
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INTRO

Hi there, here's the first issue of this new fanzine. It was supposed to be out a long time ago, but as I'm not a slave and I don't have any boss, I release it when I want.

Well, as this is my first fanzine written in English, it might have lots of mistakes, orthographic or artwork. Well, I simply don't care, cause it was never my intention to be perfect. I write just because I like to write. I know that I don't write pretty well, but I have a great feeling of express my ideas in paper, where I can share with you. Communication it's my basis and I try to make understand myself in what I write. The share of ideas is fundamental in life lived on society (our society). I try to do one's best, try to do yours. I think we both can reach our goals, through education. Not the education that is teached in schools, the education that we learn in life, or in hardcore to be more specific. The way I was teached by hardcore lyrics, by the fanzines, by the persons that appear at shows, by the kids... This will always be a thing for the kids, by the kids, cause no matter what they told us how to act, we'll always have our basis – Education through Communication.

João Conde



WORDS

When, when we'll we get up?
When, when we'll we understand? When we'll we realize that this is a war? A war without guns, a war without bullets. I've chosen my weapon just to say fuck you. I'm aiming for revolt. I'm aiming for solutions. When we'll start this revolution? Try to arm yourself. Try to arm your brothers. I've chosen my weapon just to say fuck you. Words are much stronger than an army. Break the false icons that history promoted. Gandhi and Luther King just prove this to you, words can be complex or simple as fuck you!

Time X - Good moves not good players

THE MENU – A non dairy meal

04 – EDITORIAL; 05 – COLUMNS (different views with different people); 10 – FIXED STAR RECORDS (Amendment 18 and Homerun, expect some more); 12 – REFLECTIONS RECORDS (The most known euro label...); 22 – DAY OF THE DEAD (The newest hype).

EDITORIAL

Why can't people be honest with themselves?

Before all, I would like to thank you for buying the fanzine. Buy it, stole it, borrow it; I don't care. What's important is that you have it on your hands and you can read it, learn, agree/don't agree and after that, the possibility of a change of ideas between us.

Why can't people be honest with themselves? You know, when you try to do a fanzine you always be dependent of someone, cause no matter what you need someone to write about. The thing that really pissed me off was that some kinda people that you ask them to do something for your zine and they say – "Oh yeah, of course I do it. I am flattered that you remembered me for your zine..." – and then they never write back. Yeah, I know, they might forgot it. I can understand that, but what I can't understand is that after I've sent like 3 more e-mails and they never wrote back. Yeah, I can understand it again – "they might be blind!".

Come on, who are you cheating? Not me, maybe yourself. Don't come to me saying that you're so fucking hardcore and then what you just care is your belly button. I know that I'm from a 3rd world Europe country, but we still might have something in common, like hardcore. If it was a fanzine from the US would you answer it? I can bet on that you would answer to it. But yeah, this is the Hardcore scene we have...

Although, I think that there are good things in this fanzine, like the Reflections interview that turned out to be a good one, as it was made through e-mail. But there's a really good interview here, which is the Day Of The Dead one. Good questions (I think!) and better, the best, answers I've read. Take a look! There are a lot of personal texts wrote by me that is different from the most part of the fanzines, which there are only interviews and reviews.

In a general way I see here a lot of hardwork and dedication and this is the most important thing. You know what, I still truly believe in the people's capacity to change the world. This may sounds cliché or childish for you, but I don't care. I write as a hobby, not as something that I

HIGHSORE



need to do. My intention is to spread the message and be able to discuss some topics with you. I don't care if you're middle class white kid, a black guy, gay, or whatever; we may still have something in common, as this fucking feeling through hardcore.

The funny part of the story, is that the great part of the ideas for the texts appeared in my Art classes. Well, this fanzine as nothing to do with Art – this is not Artcore (hehehehe!) – but ideas can be reached all the time. I can be more exposed to a feeling when I see those war images in TV, or I read a lyric that makes me think a lot.

About the Second Issue, I can't still say much about it. I'll be on tour with my band in few days and I'll try to do some interviews with bands that we'll play with. I'll put a whole tour report about it, full of photos and feelings. Expect more personal texts and more columns. I didn't ask so many people to write for it, cause I was kinda pissed about people that don't write back. I hate to depend on everyone else, besides me.

I hope you like it. Take care and say something about it.

João Conde'2002

INFO: Cover – Killing Flame; Photos by Ana Luz and stolen from the net | Good things – Amendment 18 – all; Fight For Change, Pointing Finger, Day of the Dead 7"; play Tony Hawk's pro skater 2; Mad Rats show's; the good old bands...; Atari, Carry On, Reaching Forward; to play football with the crew.
Thank's: Ana Luz, Luis of the Dead, Reflections, Fixed Star, Day of the Dead and the columns kids XXX

XXX COLUMNS XXX

This is the place where I'll bring words by some friends. All the undersigned columns are responsibility of the authors. If you don't agree with something feel free to react, not to me, but right to the author, by the e-mail.

For some weeks ago I was putting up a show with a friend. We divided the things that needed to be organised: he arranged the band package, I had the contacts with the venue and with the other band. This also meant that I made some deals – including the deal with the money - with the guy who worked at the venue. Everything was settled, nothing could go wrong... and everything worked out okay. I didn't expect anything else, since it wasn't the first time we were putting up a show. At the end of the show the guy from the venue went to my friend to work things out moneywise – the guy asked him what the deal was again and handed over the money to him! He hardly noticed me or looked at me. I didn't pay much attention to it that night, but the day after I just got a bit pissed. Wasn't I the one that made the deals and shouldn't it have made more sense that the guy worked out things with me or at least with the both of us! I felt neglected and discriminated and discussed it with some female friends. They all confirmed that they have found themselves in that situation before.

It certainly is not my intention to attack the guy, since I don't blame him for anything. There could be a chance that there were other circumstances that made the guy act the way he did, like there are so many explanations that can



Reaching Forward

a show?" That is what made me angry for the most. I mean, if sexism was the cause in that situation, then why should I doubt about myself while someone else is discriminating? I don't have to feel guilty or feel insecure about anything what happened! Isn't that true? Another effect the situation above had was that I was thinking: 'Next time we're putting up a show, I want to do everything alone without the help of my friend. I will strive harder to show them that I am at least as good as anybody else – I know that I have capacities just like every single person on this earth, and if someone neglects them, I'll prove them - without doubt!' You know what the worst thing about this egotistical reaction is? Indirectly I am putting down my friend and exclude him from the things we were doing together. That is bothering me and strengthens my anger, since he cannot help it that I have this feeling of being discriminated. Although I will try everything to avoid that I am excluding him, I cannot promise that it will not happen. And who's to blame then?

I know that it is also my personality that is sensitive for situations like the above. I did have this job-interview some while ago and the woman I had the interview with said, when the formal part of the interview was over, something like: 'If you don't have time to wait for the other person, than you may leave girl.' GIRL!! Come on, what am I? I am a worker with some



MAD RATS

justify his behaviour. Despite every possible explanation, the fact is there that I felt somehow neglected and discriminated as a woman. The worst thing about it is that I was in doubt about myself: 'Did I do something wrong? Was I not assertive enough? Am I not capable of putting up

qualities, a 'professional', who is applying for a job – not some girl that is there for some nice coffee conversation with my grandmother! I honestly doubt if she would've said something belittling like the word girl if there was a 25 year-old man in front of her! I assume she didn't mean it the way I interpret it, but still it did pissed me off. The choice of words characterizes here that women aren't always treated seriously and on an equal level, not even by women themselves: women need to be taken seriously as a PERSON, just like anyone else!

Anyhow, back to the situation in the venue... it is just a small incident within our scene where sexism is still a discussable subject - luckily. But when you extrapolate it to other situations - like my job-interview - it may seem clear that women at the whole aren't treated as equal and that there is more discrimination than we can ever think of – and of course we knew that before. Sometimes it seems that women have to prove themselves harder to reach the same things as men, and why? You still read that women have to fight to get the same salary as a man in the same job, they still have to explain if they want children or not while at the same time women are expected to be independent and strong! And why? Even when you take a look at a newspaper you may read: 'female minister decides this or that'. Which is nonsense, the fact if the function of minister is filled in by a man or a woman has nothing to with it and certainly doesn't need any emphasis – putting the emphasis on the gender makes me realize that the norm is still male-oriented – p.e. you never read something like 'male minister'!! It can make me so angry and it makes clear to me again that the battle for equality is still not over and it won't stop until we end it!

- smash sexism -

Tamara Kleinveld – tamara.kleinveld@yifan.net

Have some International Hardcore pride

I remember not that long ago having a conversation online with a German hardcore kid and he said, "There are only 2-3 good hardcore bands in Europe. The only good hardcore bands right now are in the US." This statement really bothered me. There are so many good hardcore bands all over the world, it's a shame that a kid in Germany would share the ridiculous

sentiments of many kids from the US. "The only good hardcore bands right now are in the US." What a bunch of shit?

I'm hoping the following statements will be wasted on most of you as this is a zine from Portugal and Portugal has some of the best bands in hardcore right now. Since this will be travelling with Time X, maybe it'll get in the



hands of some kids that have a poor scene perspective so I'm going to continue.

I firmly believe that much of the world is spending too much time following what American hardcore kids (and Americans in general) do. They keep up with all the American bands, they endure abuse from American record traders, and from American labels. They will flock to see American bands, or at least they used to, and for what? What makes our bands and our records so special? It's definitely not the messages as most US hardcore, especially Youth Crew and old style, has no message. It's not the styles I would hope, as there is mass cloning of every new style or fashion that comes along here. It's not because of the urgency or struggle behind the music, as kids in the US have many things pretty easy by comparison to other countries. Hardcore here isn't really that innovative and we churn it out as fast as we possibly can. Kids here still cling to bands from 88 but have already forgotten most of the bands from 98. We have no attention span. So why would anyone want to be like us in the US?

Let's take a look at the scenes in Portugal or in Japan. Between all the bands in Portugal every style of hardcore seems to be represented, but there seems to be a leaning towards a preference for old style hardcore (Time X, Seize the Day, Mad Rats, Pointing Finger, Through These Eyes, Day of the Dead, the list goes on...) At least that's what I've seen. The bands all have a ton of

energy and urgency. They sing about complex world issues like homophobia, child labor, and vivisection to name a few. And most importantly, they are developing quickly. They

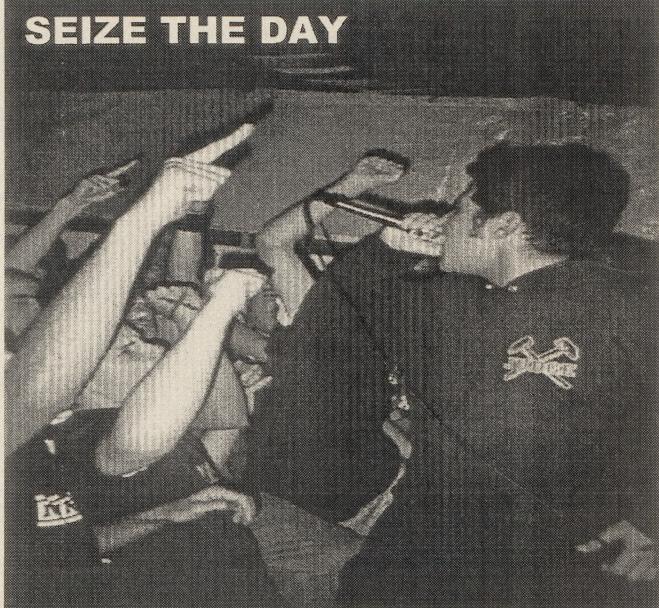


may follow a lot of hardcore music styles that are popular in the US, but at least from a band standpoint, they are a strong scene and if they ignored the US a bit they could quickly define an element to their sound that is more their own.

Let's look at Japanese hardcore. Japan has a long standing tradition in hardcore and their strong separation through culture and location (it being expensive to go there or to send things back and forth to there) has resulted in Japanese hardcore having a unique sound that is largely their own. A band like Protect may play Youth Crew hardcore but it's faster and more furious with a distinctly different vocal style that pulls from Japanese hardcore roots. From what I understand, most bands from Japan don't even own all of their equipment and have to rent out clubs just to have band practices, yet they are as tight as US bands and play much faster. We all reap the rewards of them drawing on their own strong hardcore tradition and the adversity they have to overcome. Having pride in the music and bands where you are from could go a long way as long as it's not in a "we're from _____ and we're better than you" way, like it often is here. Drawing off of other hardcore scenes around the globe other than the US could go a long way too, as the rest of the world has so much to offer. Bands from Japan, South America, and Sweden, all for example, have distinctive elements that jump out right away. Hardcore is what you make of it and

it's up to you to make your scene special and to make the world interested in what's going on in your county or city. I live in Buffalo, NY and we're not that big of a city, but we have over 30 bands that could be directly tied to one of the many genres of hardcore. Different kids who like different styles keep forming new bands together and fusing those different ideas together and I think it's beautiful. In fact last night saw the debut of Robot Has Werewolf Hand which has current members of The Control and They Live in it. They were fast, brutal, insane, and not quite like any other band I have heard. They blew the crowd away. I guess Buffalo has a long standing tradition of musical inbreeding and as a result we have a lot of great bands that don't sound exactly like one band or another. That's what makes our scene so special to me. We have pride in our scene. We support each other's bands. We have a yearly "all Buffalo band" show to showcase the best and the newest bands together. We do "tour benefits" to help raise money for our bands so they can help cover those gas and van rental expenses on tour. We're not a big scene by any means, but we try to work together and support each other as well as our friendship circles will allow. (You know we still have the petty fighting and drama that all scenes have.) Your scene, if it doesn't do some of the things that I just mentioned about Buffalo, might be able to

SEIZE THE DAY



benefit from some of those ideas. They build teamwork and a sense of community pride. Don't look to the US for all of your inspiration or as some sort of hardcore Mecca, what I've just said about Buffalo doesn't reflect what much of the US is like, and you hear about other parts of the

US way more than you hear about Buffalo. All I have to say is develop and have pride in your own scene but not to the point of excluding what the whole world hardcore scene has to offer. Somewhere else might have something incredible going on that you never realized. Of course, some of the most incredible hardcore ever played might be coming out of your own amps a few months from now.

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Why don't girls move up front?

In my opinion, girls should be more interested in the Hardcore scene and it's whole ideology, it's a shame when we see girls as mere and simple friends and boyfriends companion, but it's true, most of them are dragged to shows and aren't interested in being there, even less in moving up front. They don't even know what is being shouted there and what message is being passed.

Many times this issue brings up the violence that boys use in shows and it's so fucking true that they want to show their virility, but you can always punch them when they aren't watching!!!© Violence, Sexism, etc.; although they sill exist, but sometimes they're just an excuse.

In fact, I'm kinda pissed off at those girls that want to "show" their serenity and passivity of being poor things. They assume this position constantly and like this they will never be respected. Girls can be up front, you have to follow your will, we're not less than boys, so if they're there, why can't we? GIRLS ARE NOT AND WILL NEVER BE WEAK and if it's that the label you want to put on us, you're very wrong! Cause I will never support this "theory", we are on the front line, we have our place and nothing can stop us.

**"... The goals in sight, until we set it right,
you know we won't give up the fight, THE
STRUGGLE GOES ON..." Siren**

Ana Luz – mindiezita@hotmail.com

Colored vinyl and limited editions

Today I started thinking about colored vinyl and limited editions, not only about the common idea we have in Hardcore, but in a more socially spread-out idea. The way how records may reflect society and it's evolution throughout time... (maybe people will find this text has no interest, but I think it can be useful!)

We see colored vinyl as something bad that some people use as limited editions to sell more records and sometimes at a higher price. This is ridiculous. This is taking advantage of Hardcore to earn money in a dirty way (a more mainstream idea). Hardcore has nothing to do with that. Hardcore is about ideas and the way how we can spread them, it's not about a way to make money. So we should do every record release in black vinyl and the same covers. That way, no one takes advantage of something limited. But then I asked myself – by making everything the same, aren't we creating something way too standard? Everything boring and factory style? Everything too much Ford-like where nothing is different. I'm no taking any sides, I'm just questioning you because, we are responsible for Hardcore (the crew is me, the crew is you, we are the crew). Do we want Hardcore as something more standard (black vinyl) or more creative and different (colored vinyl)?

In my opinion, it's only wrong when there are certain limited editions sold at higher prices than the black vinyl edition. I'm only against those who want to get rich and do not have the real spirit (Just look at E-Bay and see how prices can increase). Personally, I'm happy when I buy a record and find that it's in colored vinyl. I don't ask the guy that sells it if he has any colored vinyl or go look for colored vinyl. I just buy the record because I like the band and not because I may end up with something more valuable than other people. If I get a colored one, cool. If not, it's ok. This competition kills the whole Hardcore spirit and doesn't make us any different (If we really to be that...) than the rest of the society we live in. Even so, it's funny when I get home and I see that the record I just bought is colored, even though it wasn't on purpose. The choice is ours...

João Conde – Xtill_deathX@hotmail.com

I SEE DEAD PEOPLE!

No matter where I look I see dead people. Death is present everywhere. Not that it means that all those people are physically dead, but yes, psychological death. All their vivacity disappeared and what remained was a living dead.

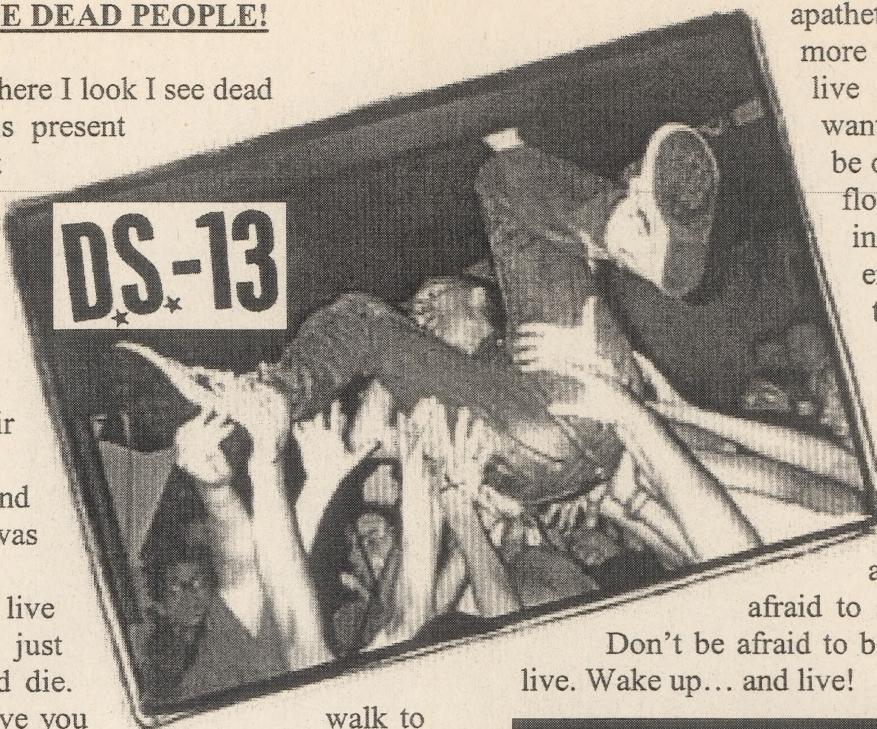
People that live in this planet just born, breath and die.

Each day you live you walk to the real death, cause dead we all live a long time ago! People just think about working from 9 to 5, "to have" a Wife/Husband, children, car, watch TV, etc. They don't stop to think about how life really is; on that life where we have fun, smile, love, etc. – the feelings world. Nowadays people live in a material world, in an era of consumption. This is a rotten system. Just turn on the TV, or go out, to find this kinda people that I'm talking about. They are everywhere.

I never was, never been and will never be better than anyone, but I try to think and reflect about things. Each day is a day and is to be fully lived, as it is our last one. I don't want to waste it with futile and with no meaning things. I'm interest in communication and that's what I try to do when I write this words. This is life; this is being awake with both eyes open. To see what's right or wrong, always questioning the road we choose. As an example – while you are reading these words try to think by yourself. Don't think about this text as an unquestionable truth, or as a stupid text.

Of course that people don't see "the bad" – there are people that are happy with this kinda life they have (the most common). But when will come the day where you need to make some decisions and choices, you'll not have any kinda option, cause no matter how you try to argue, options were made by them. You don't have the right to think, to choose, to live. These are words that do not appear in your vocabulary.

Free yourself from the chains that keep you stuck to this society trivial things. Don't be



apathetic! Show that life is more than being alive; to live is to do whatever I want to do. Don't want to be one more sheep in the flock; one more people in the crowd; say enough! No one has the right to tell me what's good or bad.

No one has the right of thinking instead of me. I control my actions. Don't be afraid to make a mistake; don't be afraid to say $2+2=5$; so what?

Don't be afraid to be happy. To risk – to live. Wake up... and live!

As your goals crumble into pieces

This is your last goodbye; enjoy it while you can; keep those goals in sight; today you'll be waiting; tomorrow you'll be suffering; goals sudden become dreams as you spend another year... suffering... waiting in fear... dreams turn into a blank page when happiness becomes a wage; you're just waiting... waiting... put the noose around your neck; weight up the knife in your back; what you've never knew was that sometimes these goals can't come true; your success is not a word in our dictionary; go back to that place in the end of the line; back to that chains of desperation. Slave.

(Accommodate... sit down forever... wait... and believe that your happiness can be resumed to just simple numbers, but sometimes the wage that pays your rent and the loan of precious car may turn out to be the noose around your neck. Forever... for a lifetime. We believe in balance. In satisfaction between a fair wage and a fair time schedule. Enjoy your life now. 9 to 5? Everyday? For the rest of your life? Fuck that. Is this what you dreamt about? Choose the best for you. We believe that happiness should not be resumed to a pay check in the end of the month. To keep on waiting is like refusing life fulfilment. Keep that in mind.)

DAY OF THE DEAD

João Conde



After the Homerun release, Fixed Star Records caught my attention and with the release of the all star's Amendment 18, I needed to a interview. Here is it.

Who are the persons behind this label? – name, age, etc.

Bendover 19; Benduce 20; Jan 18; BB 21 (?)

What kind of activities you have besides the label? – bands, zines, etc.

Me and Bendover are in a band called DEATH OR GLORY. We play fast, hard hitting hardcore the way it's meant to be. We'll be releasing a demo on fixed star some time soon. So look out for that! As for the others... Benduce roadies for DEATH OR GLORY and spends a lot of time and money on E-Bay. BB is doing shows in our area on a regular basis. I also just started working on a fanzine. It'll be called MIND CONTROL and will feature interviews with damage control, the snobs and striking distance. It should be out in early February...

Were all the releases that you made, the way you thought they were supposed to be?

Yes, I think both, the homerun and the A18 7", turned out great! We had some difficulties getting the cover for the homerun record printed but all in all I'm pretty much satisfied. Especially if you keep in mind that we never put out a record before.

How do you see the importance of Fixed Star Rex in you local scene? Do you see it as good thing to help your local scene or do you see this small label, as a thing just to release your friends bands?

Well, it's a good thing to support the local hardcore scene but I definitely can't see myself putting out a crappy record by a band from my area just for the sake of supporting the local scene! I wouldn't put out a friend's record if it sucks either. I really have to dig a band to put out their record and put a lot of hardwork and money in it. Showing support by going to shows and buying records is one thing but paying a few hundred bucks to get a record out another.

As you sometimes, having a label, can be

responsible for all that crap concerned with limited editions and colored wax, how do you see it? Do you see it as a way to help you sell some more records, or a stupid thing concerned with consumption?

Collecting records is cool. There's nothing wrong with limited editions and fixed star made a couple of limited versions for the records we put out as well. I'm always happy if I get a record on colored wax if I pre-ordered it. Of course it is a way to sell more records but I don't see anything wrong with that. The band needs to get paid, the pressing plant needs to get paid... there's a lot of money involved in putting out records so you have to make some bucks...

If it would be possible for you to release an old record, which was it and why?

That's a tough one. There are some many great old records that I'd have loved to put out... one that is on top of my mind would be the negative approach 7". This record is so fucking great. It is the perfect hardcore record. It has everything a good hardcore record should have...a great singer, sick mosh parts and awesome lyrics that I can identify with 100%! A runner up would be the antidote 7"....

Does the label has a politic, like "we just release bands that have veg(an)etarian/sxe members"? Or is it for other ideas, or just for the music?

No, we definitely do not limit ourselves to just straight edge or vegetarian bands. The first record we put out was not by a straight edge band and not everyone in a18 is a vegetarian. Of course we would not put out a white power record but that's a given. We just have to dig the bands music and like what they have to say...

And about the owners of the label (you), do you have any kinda ideals, like be vegetarian or sxe? Why?

Yeah, all of us are straight edge. I think I pretty much speak for the others as well when I say that I'm edge because "I see no good in my mind getting fucked". I don't need to get drunk or wasted... It's unhealthy and only causes more problems, which I don't need. Two of us are vegetarians, me and Bendover are not... Of course we do have ideals but that has nothing to do with the label.

I liked the interview, I hope you enjoyed it too. It was small and a kinda introduction to the label. Say what you want...

Thanks for the interview.

HOW IT STARTED...

It started some time ago, not when I was a little kid as the kid's stories, but when I was fifteen. Some of my friends were beginning their life in the hardcore world and as a not original beginning, they were starting their first band and I, as a friend, used to hang out with them at every show. I'll not talk about all the bands, the one's that influenced me a lot (maybe you don't know some of them and that's boring), cause that would be a really long, long, story, so I'll keep it shorter and more interesting (I guess!).

The reason why was my intention to write a text about my experience in the hardcore scene, was the change that it made in lots of aspects in my life.

So, hardcore is one of those environments where every kid should live for a while, like, while he's a teenager. There is so much madness out there that sometimes is good when you find a friendly place. You can take it further than the teenager age, as I made, but while you're a teenager is better than nothing.

I always had that kinda idea about the world – to make a change. I always cared about pollution, ecology, etc. But somehow, I always ended thinking that I could do much more, so I started searching new things. While I was searching for it, somehow, it hit me before I had the chance to discover it. The hardcore scene was at that age, my newest hype and I couldn't avoid it, cause I've felt so

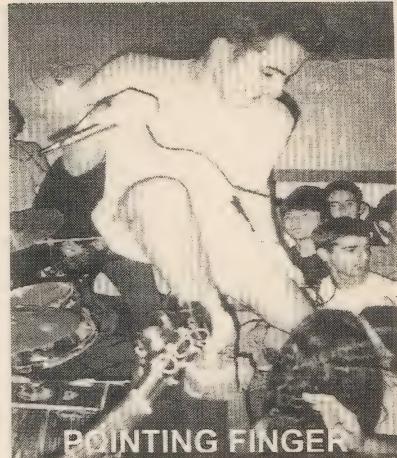
well, that I didn't want it to disappear.

As I was going to shows every time, the ideas began to make an effect that changed my entire life. Reading fanzines and the records lyrics was like learning the ideals of a different culture. Animal rights, Straight Edge, politics, to name a few. For the first time in my life, I was really drunk... cause I've drank all the hardcore wisdom. A new culture, that had all the things that I was aiming for – to live in harmony.

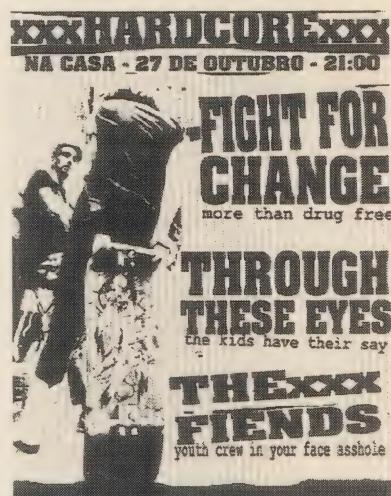
So, that's how it began, with some help from close friends.

The big importance of hardcore on every kid's life is this whole role of ideals we are taught and that we can't agree more. There are no teachers, just the information. You are free to choose if you want to be a part of the solution, or a part of the problem. I've made my choice... No regret! I've found a new culture that is good, in my opinion, and can be adopted everyday, on every life. Isn't this wonderful? Come on, this is freedom. If you don't want to go to shows anymore, don't go. If you don't want to relate with people connected to hardcore, don't do it. Just follow your steps and you can be happy forever. I've made my choice... My life!

João Conde



POINTING FINGER



FIGHT FOR CHANGE



REFLECTIONS

Somehow, I would like to make an introduction for this interview, but, I don't know why, it would be just a cheesy thing, cause as far as I'm concerned everybody knows them. Maybe, people don't know their faces, but at least have seen their releases, or read some of their words. Johan and Suzanne are really good people and the worldwide hardcore scene should be thankful for their role played on it. That's why this interview was an important thing...

A – THE MAFIA BEHIND REFLECTIONS

1 - Who are the persons behind reflections? (Name, age, etc.) What they do besides reflections?

That would be me and Suzanne, my girlfriend... since we got together, we've been working on the zine and later on the label... like a perfect team I would say! She's good at computers and stuff, and organizing stuff, while I'm the one merely in charge of sales and writing for the zine... I do Reflections full time, Suzanne works at a club for 20 hours. A club that also organize hardcore shows, so in a way, we're both working full-time on hardcore... and well, that's like a dream come true!

“Stalin was probably just as fucked up as Hitler... I think that the world may not know so much about what happened in Stalinist Russia compared to Hitler’s Germany.” - Reflections

2 – Do you think that if you were not working with hardcore, like a 9 to 5 job, you would be more or less happy than you are now?

Oh... easy! Less happy! After I quit my job, a few months after that, my old boss asked if I could help him out (I did kinda ‘specialist work’... airbrush/special painting... on

motorcycles / helmets), I did that and honestly, I hated it the same morning I started! It was only for two days but it was such a good lesson. If by any means possible, I never want to work for a boss again.

3 – Do you think that the oppression by bosses at the working place is the reason for nowadays apathetic (apathy towards social problems and so on...) society? Or do you see it as a result of a lot of situations connected to the society in general?

Honestly. I think here in Holland, maybe employees have it TOO good... they don't care much for social problems, as long as they get their paycheques every week and can go on their holidays once or twice a year. There's not really

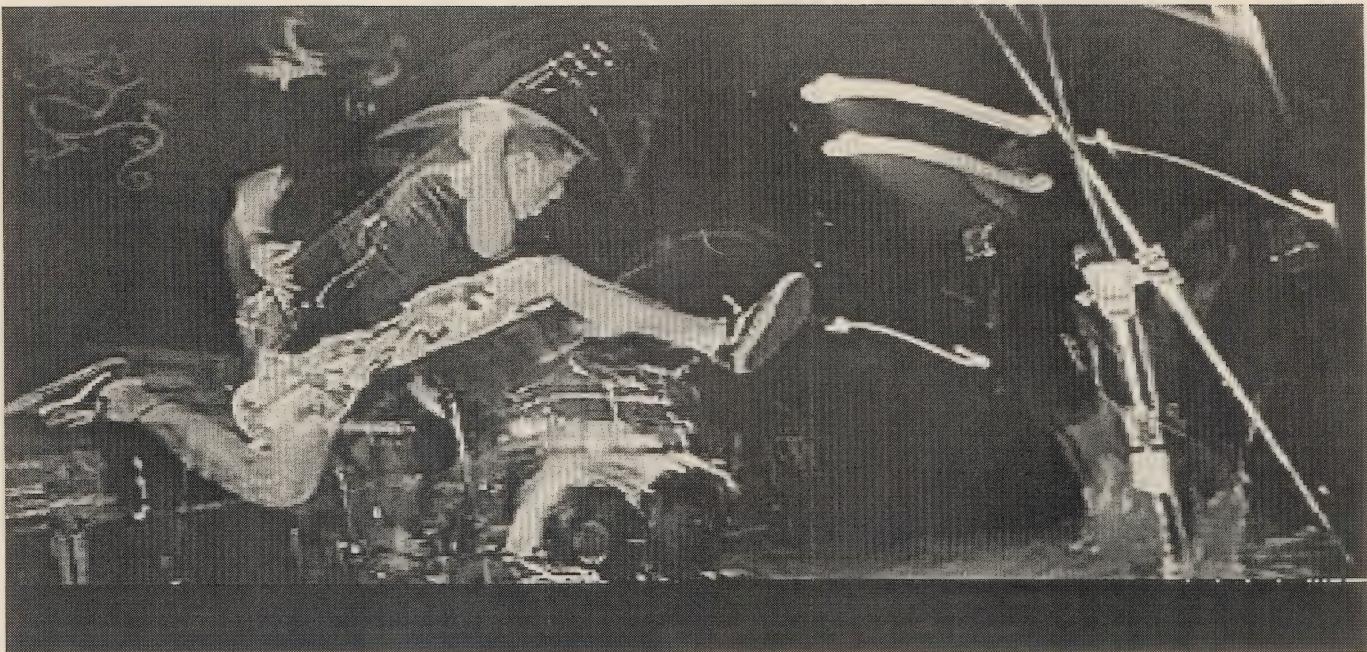


much ‘unity’ in the workplace anymore. Or at least not at the (smaller) company's where I worked... I honestly think that's the main reason why people are apathetic and hey, even ‘lazy’...

4 – Your “unity” word seems to match with the whole union communist thing. What is your opinion about communist parties and parties/politics in general?

Honestly, at this point in my life, I don't support ANY political party. I don't believe in communism, simply because I've never seen it work. So, unity in the sense of communism is NOT what I believe in. To me, unity is that people respect each other and take care for one another.

FOR THOSE WHO BETRAYED THE EDGE...



5 – You know, we all grew up knowing that Hitler was a bad guy and the nazi shit should never existed, but the whole Stalin thing wasn't so good too. How do you see both?

Oh surely! Stalin was probably just as fucked up as Hitler... I think that the world may not know so much about what happened in Stalinist Russia compared to Hitler's Germany. Some claim that even more people were killed under that regime... To me, they're both dictators, and both evil.

6 – Is the Reflection team a vegan/straight edge team? What kinda importance does it has in your life?

I'm straight edge and vegetarian, and Suzanne is vegetarian and does occasionally drink some wine... that's it. No militancy, no bullshit. We're doing this for ourselves, not for anyone else...

7 – What Influenced you most in hardcore? What made you believe and stay true for all this years?

Most and for all: the people. I met so many amazing kids over the years and made so many friends... just recently I went on tour with American Nightmare, and it was awesome! They were all super nice and we could get along so well... that's what I love most about hardcore... the sense of community and the friendship. I do have my political beliefs but honestly as long as someone's not racist, fascist etc... I couldn't care less about what other people think. When we can get along, that's what count the most for me!

B – THE LABEL

1 - After all this releases, were they what you expected?

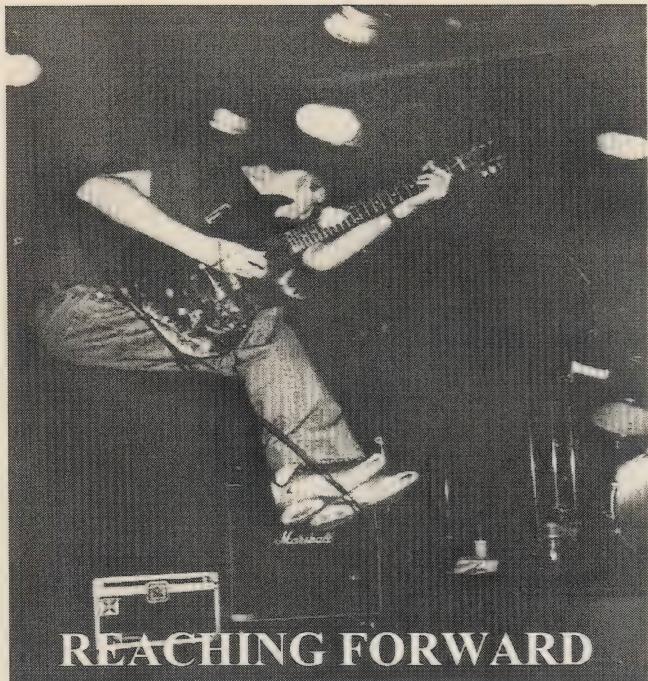
Yeah, definitely! So far we're really happy with our discography of releases. Of course there's some records you like more then others but hey, that happens.

2 - Why is Reaching Forward the only European band that you released?

Well, they were. 'Till recently, we just have a new cd out (or, by the time you read this, it should be out!) by a band called AVERTION, they come out of Holland and are absolutely amazing! Kinda like Conversion, but then different. Really technical and intense hardcore!



AMERICAN NIGHTMARE



REACHING FORWARD

The fact that we have more US bands? Well, honestly, I think that the US has better bands.... And since we want to put out what we like best... that's the only reason. I don't really see hardcore as in terms of 'supporting your own scene'. I see hardcore as a global thing... I don't care where a band comes from. When they're good, they're good. When they suck, they suck. It's simple.

3 – Yeah, we must see the scene as worldwide, but don't you think that the US bands have already lots of labels searching for them, when the European bands may have less opportunities to release something?

"I consider myself a spiritual person but I'm not involved with any organisation whatsoever..." - Reflections

I don't think that's the case. There are so many labels out there and bands can easily release something nowadays. Unfortunately a lot bands put out records way too early and there's a lot of bad records out there...

4 – I know and I agree that you release only what you like best, but I don't see the things as "US bands better than Europeans". Maybe they play better (technical skills), but I don't think they put their sweat on it (some, not all). So, for you, what's more important in a band: the technical skills or their attitude?

"Zines are the fuel of the scene. At least they were... Now with the internet things seem to change a bit" – Reflections

Oh, the attitude. Sure! But then again, you can't know all the band members and sometimes it's hard to figure that all out. Technical skills don't mean anything to me, a band rocks, or they don't. Plain and simple! ☺

5 – You have already been on tour in the US with some bands (Mainstrike, The Oath), you can have an image of the US scene, so how do you make the separation between the European and US scenes? The good, the bad, etc...

I think in Europe, people take better care of bands, they take care of food, sleeping places, while in the US, a band is way more on their own, and have to figure things out by themselves. Good thing is the house shows, where people have bands play in their own homes, that awesome! I think however that in the US, things are also starting to change for the better. So, in the end, there's not that much difference...

6 – After all this time, what kind of advice could you give to a new kid that wants to do his own label? Good and bad things to do...

Just do it! That's the best advice I can give. Don't worry about taxes and shit or anything else. Just go for it! Do the best you can and most importantly, keep the band you're working with happy. It's ALWAYS the band first, and then anything else...

"I really believe in that people have to change their hearts, they have to change themselves... that's when you can change society and think about a change for the better in this world..." – Reflections



7 – How can a band captivate the reflections attention for a new release? Does it have to have a U.S.A. address?

No way!!!! Just be fucking amazing! We're about to release a record from I DEFY from Germany and they're SO good! Kinda like old

Uniform Choice, superfast hardcore that's still understandable and melodic. I said this a million times before I think, but a band just has to be good. I don't care what country they're from as long as they're good! I mean, there's tons of people that do labels and they all go: "I want to help out bands, and that's the main reason I'm



THE CONTROL

doing this." Well, that's crap! Or well, not everything of course, but hey, the reason I release records is because I LOVE the music, that's the MAIN priority. Why release something that I don't like? That's dumb. So, first I have to like the band, and then it's obviously very cool if you help a band by releasing their records!

8 – Changing the subject a little bit, what is your opinion about religions? How do you see them, as an organized thing or as a personal and spiritual thing?


I have strong doubts against organised religion. Spirituality is very, very personal in my opinion, and as soon as it gets organised, people do get influenced and power will take over. I consider myself a spiritual person but I'm not involved with any organisation whatsoever....

9 – Do you have any connection with Hare Krishna? Are you a Krishna devotee?

I consider myself a devotee... I believe in God / Krishna / Allah... and I was involved with Krishna Consciousness until I found out that the organisation had the same faults as any other religious gathering. And that's simply not my kinda thing...

C – THE MAGAZINE

1 - Now that you achieved the issue N°14, for

how long do you think the magazine continues? Like an issue N°50?

Oh man! #50??? I don't even want to think about that! When we just did a new issue, I'm already happy that we're able to do a new one after that! I always think that there's no way I can do another one... and well, since now, that always worked out anyway, so, yeah, we'll see where we end! I do however have a Reflections Book in mind someday, with all the best parts of the zines, and then newly layed out, new pictures, etc, etc.

2 – You, as a zinester, how do you see the importance of zines in the scene? Do you really think that you changed someone after all this years writing about what's on your mind, or it was never your intention to do it?

Zines are the fuel of the scene. At least they were... Now with the internet things seem to change a bit. There's still a need and demand for zines however. Nothing beats the feeling of an amazing zine, still smelling from the fresh ink.



GOOD CLEAN FUN

So, I think that zines will always be there and they have to!

3 – Now that you referred to the relation between a zine and the internet and how both things changed the worldwide hardcore, don't you think that sometimes technology can be a two way cum? Sometimes it can help (the information can reach everywhere), but in the other way it can be bad, cause people seems to fall in apathy of just surfing the internet and lose the touch of reading a fresh zine and write to the editor? Communication...

What can I say? You hit the nail right on the head! I think that indeed does happen. In fact, some kids even said that to me... Since 'normal' zines usually don't have much news - 'value' and the internet does, they don't bother to buy it.

And that sucks! To say the least!

4 – Yeah, that's right! But the way I see things, I notice that fanzines are becoming to generic, sometimes boring. You know, lots of interviews, lots of reviews, lots of advertising, a clean and pretty layout, but few interesting texts, or columns. These things web pages have it too, so maybe we should walk backwards some years and make things with a more punk conscious identity. Say something...

Yeah, Maybe you're right... yet still, the way we do our zine, with mainly interviews, I try to give a certain opinion through those interviews and I think when you read those, people can surely figure out what's important to us and where we stand... But maybe it would be good to take a few steps back. I'm definitely not too happy with all the thousands of webzines out there. It seems



like they're too easy....

D – [RE]fuse

1 – Can you tell us something about this organization? Like an introduction.

Well, honestly: it didn't work out. It was supposed to be a collaboration between Coalition records and Reflections records but we found out that we work too different to make it work out. It would've destroyed our friendship, and that's what's more important to us than business...

2 – Now that the [RE]fuse fest. As come to an end, what are the ideas you got from that? Was it what you have expected, or not?

It was a good fest! We expected a little more people, but in the end we collected f1000, - (\$400) for an anti fascist organisation, and we got our investments back. It was cool. Voorhees, DS-13 and Reaching Forward rocked the place like nothing else (and then Aversion, the Deal were among my favourites as well!!!!) it was a lot of hard work, and it got us dead tired, but happy after all...

E – WORDS

1 – What does the word REVOLUTION suggests you?

Hmm... not that much. I DO believe in personal revolution. In a personal change... "When the heart isn't changed, you'll do nothing but rearrange" I really believe in that people have to change their hearts, they have to change themselves... that's when you can change society and think about a change for the better in this world...

2 – What does the word REFLECTIONS suggests you?

It's my life. I put my heart and soul, my energy. My everything in it. This is what I live for! Love hardcore and I'm very proud of what we achieved so far. Without compromising on our beliefs we do what we love to do!

3 – Last words...

Thanks a lot for the interview! Good luck with the zine! Stay positive and be good!

Reflections'2001



A STRAIGHT EDGE MANIFEST

"I refuse to sit back, watching the days go by...". Yeah, Ensign wrote it and I couldn't agree more. The worst thing that the human being can do is conforming with all the things that he's imposed. If you don't agree with one thing you shouldn't stay silent – break it, before it consumes you. No one has the right to say what is right or wrong for you. We are free to decide what we want to do with our lives, but if you just want to see the time passing by, sorry man, but I'm not with you. While I'm sitting here, writing this shit a lot of bad things are happening worldwide. I know that my words maybe can't change anything, but at least I've tried. I've tried to make a change (don't you think that the Youth of Today song "make a change" is more than a simple youth crew cliché?). I just can't cross my arms to all the shit that surround us, like capitalism, for an example. Capitalism is one of the biggest problems in the world, cause maybe some of the problems that exist too, begin in it.



THE OATH

The disrespect for human and animal rights, and with Mother Nature; are three examples that have a bigger role on nowadays society machines. Sexism, homophobic behaviour, machismo, racism, etc., are problems that we and fish industry, blood sports, vivisection, etc., keep us sad and angry. Pollution, Green House Effect, deforestation, the garbage production, etc., keep our life unhealthy. I don't wanna be part of this problem. I wanna have an active voice in the solution. To create solutions and realize ideas is a wisdom step. I'm not having this talk, cause I'm better than you. We're all

equals and we all should try to do our best, how about you? Don't take me as a guy from a political party, cause I'm not! I just want a better society, where all could live free, in respectful parameters. Don't you think that all those problems mentioned before are a good reason for you to do something? There are so many things we can do better than a political party... Simple things as refusing to buy products that cost innocent lives and the sweat of kids that should be in school instead of being in a factory working 12 hours a day. Yeah right, it's really simple to close your eyes and pretend that everything is ok. It's a lot easier to take your plastic money and pay a pair of Nike's, or drink Coke, or buy your expensive clothes. Start to care, or you'll suffer in the end, cause we're all going to hang ourselves a little bit everyday. Is it so difficult to see? Is it so difficult for you to see that while you buy a sweater that costs you 100 dollars, a lot of kids die everyday cause they don't have anything to eat? And now you ask – And if I don't buy the sweater, the kid will have something to eat? No, but at least you will have your conscious a little bit less heavy. You know that we're all gonna die some day and maybe, we'll not be here to see our world collapse (?), but we need to do something, cause everybody has the same rights as you to have a decent life in this world. It's easy to see that there is something wrong in our white male christian societies that do not work properly. If somebody can spend a lot of money in clothes others do not have anything to eat, there's something wrong, don't you think? Answers need to be found and that's why I still waste some time writing a text about this kinda things. I don't expect great changes, but at least I'm trying to avoid our problem and I know that while you read this text you are being informed and you'll die asphyxiated with guilt.

My respect goes to all the organizations that believed, still believe and will always believe in freedom. My respect goes to: Animal Liberation Front; Animal Defence League; Crimethink; political prisoners; and many more, but all the persons that try to make a difference everyday should have his/her name on this list. The struggle must go on...

João Conde

Day of the dead

Day of the Dead are a band from Lisbon which are making a difference in the Portuguese Hardcore scene, musically and lyrically. This interview was made on a street of Lisbon, on the 26th of February 2002, with a portable recorder.

Introduce yourselves, please.

João, drums, 19 years old (J); Ricardo, voice, College student, 24 years old (R); Luis, Bass, 24 years old (L); Nuno, Guitar, 20 years old (N); Pedro, Guitar, born in 77... (laughter)

How do you see the Portuguese Hardcore scene evolving since you became part of up until today? Can this question be connected with the lyrics from "kill the phantom of the good old days"?

R – In a way it's connected with that lyric, but it was written regarding the whole hardcore scene. It's more about the individual evolution of each of us than what was written by Ian MacKaye in 81 or by Ray Cappo in 88 or by Karl Buechner in 94. This is all about personal evolution, in any way that suits you. "Kill the phantom of the good old days" is about not being tied down to your roots in a negative way.

Putting the hardcore scene aside for a while and getting back to Portuguese society, can the song "history written upon the blood of the dead" be aimed at the age of Discoveries, where Portugal played a central part?

J – I think that song is about the evolution of globalisation, since the age of Discoveries until now and it's about the consequences that such globalisation had in our lives, problems such as imperialism and monopolies, either economical or political, and how we accept it every day with question and with some selfishness. We're just thinking about surviving and not about the consequences that our lifestyles may have, sometimes unwillingly, on the life of others.

Do you think that ideas such as "...we should be proud of what Portugal did and what that stands for the rest of the world. The fact that we "discovered" Africa..." used by old people should cease to exist? Don't you think that younger people should take a stand and say "...that's not exactly how it happened"?

R – My opinion is exactly opposite to what most people say, because we should be disgusted by everything that happened and by constantly showing pride over spilled blood and slain cultures. The stronger always prevails, the biggest conqueror, the bravest, the one that has more land and the spirit of always wanting more. This is wrong, because in a so-called humanization, which should be happening in the year 2002, everyone should be smarter than that, but we see exactly the opposite. We are constantly wanting more and killing each other, instead of striving to find a better solution.

L – I think that when we talk of that kind of pride and about Portugal's past where we say we were the best and conquered everything, without going into the topic of nationalism yet, this school of thought show a huge inferiority complex. In my view, it is also connected to the

way the government deals the masses. When it says "We are now up to our necks in shit, but it's only temporary. We've been great before and will be like that again", it's just plain stupid. People start getting very nationalist because of some stupid pride about being Portuguese. You're and Portuguese and Africans are not. People also say that: "we were there and they kicked us out, Now they want to come here". Because of this, such pride has no right to be. Just look at it, white men, I'm not only talking about the Portuguese, has nothing to be proud of. White men created diseases, organized religions, television, oppressing governments, killed people, etc. You just need understand that basically being proud because, 3000 years ago, some guy was born in the same place you're now standing on and did something special or not is plain stupid and it has nothing to do with us. So many generations have gone by that it's just one more excuse for the shitty life that most people have, except for a selected few. It's the fact that you can say "my life is shit, but my country was once great". This makes no sense and leads to stupid hate and conflicts.

N – Being proud of our ancestors is stupid, because we taking pride in an ancestor that killed, therefore a murderer. But because he did it in times of war, he is a hero. That's ridiculous. A murderer is always a murderer, be it in war or peacetime.

How do you see the current state of Portugal and the rest of Europe, politically and socially, regarding the development of nationalism that results in extreme right wing parties?

L – The ideal thing would be the non-existence of that national division, but that would be an utopia. People need to feel a sense of identity, you don't have to look at other countries, you just have to look at the hardcore scene. If you live in a country with no conditions and with low education, you just have to be pushed in the right direction. That happens here: people with less money sometimes say, "Black people are here and take away our jobs" and don't even think that abroad there are millions of Portuguese people. Right now, if every Portuguese immigrant was to return to Portugal, we wouldn't be able to walk around. There would be too many people. That nationalism taken to the extreme is a very negative thing and provokes, as you said, the growth of extreme right wing parties. We know that the quality of our lives is getting worse and there are more problems everyday, so people want to try every option. When someone is young, and very impressionable, being in an extreme right wing party and fighting for ideals such as your national identity can seem very positive, but it's not. One of the few positive things about the European Union is that it created a sort of general identity, but it later was changed by governments into two blocks – European Union Vs. United States.

R – It ends up being the same thing...

L – Instead of 50 countries, you end up with two and that's the problem. It's like with religion – national identity is like opium, a drug people can lean on. It's all excuses not to dive deeper and to discover the real reasons that make people act like they do. The subconscious fear of losing

your job, the subconscious fear that people from another race might be better than you. I think that racism is based on that. There's a person of another race and, unconsciously, you think that it may have better qualities than you have and your first defence is fear. You're going to say "no, no, he's dumber because he's black". Basically that's it. The power of extreme right wing parties is growing and it uses people's insecurity.

A while ago you talked about immigration in Portugal, African people, for example, as well as people from the east of Europe. Looking at the unemployment rate in Portugal that has a tendency to increase, do you think that immigration may be connected with it or is it connected with other social reasons?

L – I think that the unemployment rate has nothing to do with immigration. We can talk about two different groups of immigrant people: the Africans who come here and work in construction works, in jobs that most Portuguese do not want to do, so it is ridiculous to say they're stealing your job; and then there's people from the East of Europe, many times with a university degree, that come here and do not mind to work in a coffee shop. The only that you can say that's connected, and in that case it's not immigrant's fault, is to say that an immigrant comes to Portugal illegally, he accepts to work under any conditions (you only have to pay him half the salary). The companies that exploit them are to blame and immigrants are not at fault. Companies see that they can get the job done for half the price and they're going to hire those people and Portuguese citizens. You can't think about immigrants as someone different than you that comes to steal your place, but rather a person who wants a better life like you do. You have the privilege of living in a country that allows you to do that, in theory, because it's not always like that. They probably live in a country with a reality that we probably don't even dream about. We are blessed, even with all the problems that we have, and they just want some of that blessing. Unemployment is just another stupid reason for people to criticize what they don't know and are afraid of.

From what I understood, that there shouldn't be any countries, but a concept of a true global village in which there should be only one country and no nationalities. Comment on that.

R – The end of borders always has a positive effect. But, as Luis was saying, there's always the problem of creating a bigger power. As it was already said: we've broken down some barriers, we united countries into what we call the European Union. We're creating a new world power, at a devastating scale, because, sooner than later, we'll end up in wars against, for example, the United States, a country with a huge militarization and that wants to control everything (oil and more riches). We are getting bigger sides of power and that is not good either, but apart from that, the end of borders and unification of more races is important.

You were talking about the militarization of the United States. In what way do you see the events of September 11th?

J – For me, those events didn't affect the USA as much as it seems. The USA spends thousands of dollars in weapons, with objective of fighting. Those industries were stopped, so the USA needed a war. I'm not pointing fingers and I'm not saying that USA caused the bombing,



...they needed it a lot! I think that the war against Afghanistan is much more than just vengeance and operation Everlasting Peace, as Bush called it, when he divided once again the good from the bad...

R – ...the Christian and non-Christian...

P – ...Where is Bin Laden?... (laughter)

J – Peace does not depend on the USA, but of what other people do to them. The USA are the kings. Anything that affects them in a negative way, they try to make the people/groups responsible to pay very dearly. Sometimes they makes wonder who the terrorists are. If it's the ones that bombed the towers or the USA that bombed Afghanistan without a specific target.

R – I think it's interesting, forgetting for a moment the tragedy in all of this, because as in all wars many innocent die unnecessarily, but it demonstrated that the American integrity was scratched. There was fear and, for the first time in the last few years, they felt threatened and saw that their supposed control and power may fail them. They are vulnerable after all and that is positive in a way - it keeps the complex of superiority from rising and it makes them lose the concept that they're untouchable and can rule the world. One of the pillars (the biggest in any country), which is the national integrity, was shaken, and that's positive.

N – The bombing was a regrettable thing. Thousands of people died, but the USA saw that they don't have complete control. That may not have affected the USA. It was used as a way of getting new allies and play the part of the victim. The USA may not kill directly, but they kill



more people a year, to cover up things, than the people that died in the bombing.

L – There are two important things about the bombing and the war: First of all, we have to analyse why so many people hate the USA so much that they're willing to give their lives for a cause. The number of people that died in

the Twin Towers is something unbelievable and it is not, as someone said in a show "somewhat of joy to see those people die", that's ridiculous. It was 6000 people that died and 6000 people, are 6000 people in any part of the world. We can't go around preaching that "we're all the same and that there are no divisions" and then be pleased by the death of 6000 people. The American people is not to blame of: 1º having an oppressive government who, through so called freedom has a system that covers up any ideas. From the day you are born, in the USA, you only get to see the American glory and history. People can't be blamed for being dumb and of completely swallowing the American history. You can't blame people for that. You can never think if it was good or bad, it was bad! We have to think about what causes this growing hate in the world towards the USA.

You were talking about Americans analysing their culture through their history, like the Portuguese analyse their culture through their history and the people of Afghanistan that follow their culture, led by the Muslim holy bible. The analysis that we can make of the cultures of each society is reflected upon the religion we choose, in society as a whole. In each way



do you think that religion can influence the masses??

L – Religion, as an institution, is only good for just that. In Portugal, we have a softer religion, when compared with Afghanistan, but you have a religion that encourages people to mutilate themselves to ensure something (promises in Fátima, etc.). I already discussed this with my mother and we talked about religion. Our parents saw the bombing and called them insane, fanatics, blabla. Basically, what they're doing is what we do here: go to Fátima on our knees and die along the way. We have a God so good that kills while we're paying a promise. They're doing the same thing, only the patterns and cultures are different. Maybe if the people that go to Fátima on their knees lived in Afghanistan, they would be doing the same thing. They would be strapping dynamite to their chests, etc. We have to see that it's all about concepts and the problem is not religion "Y" or "Z", but organized religion. From the moment where it's an organization and becomes an institution, like we see in christianism with the Vatican filled with works of art, clothes embroidered in gold, etc. When it becomes an organization, it starts having, whether it wants to or not, economical interests regarding its own survival. Then there are people that follow them like sheep. I don't do it, maybe because I had the luck of having had my eyes opened, of having read, of having made my own opinion, but many people do that. Religion as an organization does

and will always do that. It's a bit like the political scene in Portugal, where people don't like this or that party. People a party, like if it was a football club – the party says something and they do it. It's the same with the church. Religion, be it here or in Afghanistan, has worst or better consequences, according to our standards and western or eastern concepts.

N – Religion, when it's not organized, is something very good and gives strength to people. Believing in something was never bad, quite the opposite, it's something good, that helps us achieve many goals in life. Religion as an organization is one of the worst things I've seen. It's a money making machine and it also makes people do things they don't want to do.

The elections are just around the corner. What do you think of it? Are you going to vote?

P – I don't vote...

R – I have already the act of voting in many different ways. Maybe I already believed that voting in my local council could make the difference. Lately, I've come to the conclusion that the act of voting doesn't change much, but it's all rather complex. You end up not voting and not being involved in any kind of choice about something that surrounds you. I don't believe in the campaign projects of this or that party, more to the left or more to the right. I may be more inclined towards a proposal that sounds better, but it must be fair and effective. Even though many times it's a process created to achieve power – we sit in our chairs, wait for the money to reach our pockets and forget the promises we made. But this time I think we won't vote..

L – I only voted once, when I thought it was really worth it, in the referendum about abortion. I won't vote, I still don't vote, because I don't believe in the instituted system. I don't think that democracy is the ideal thing, because democracy is just a way to make minorities get fucked every time. I'm not defending communism or anarchy, but democracy is not right. We've already tried for many years and came to the conclusion that democracy doesn't work, so I won't vote. Don't tell me that because I don't vote I can't complain. I can, because I don't believe in the system, therefore I won't participate.

J – If we vote, but we vote blank it means we agree with the system, but not with the parties or with the people in charge of the parties. Therefore, I don't vote.

After two months of using the Euro, do you think that things are really going to change or this thing of European equality is just a lie and all the countries are still the same, rich and poor?

R – A image you get has changed, we have some new coins. It might even be good, because now I'm going to travel and use the same coin in different countries. It's actually cool...

You're going to travel with who?

R – I'm going to travel with a very good band from Lisbon, Time X. I'm going to be the roadie and I'm going to carry around a hundred t-shirts... (laughter) ... Euro is exactly the same thing and doesn't change anything. It's just makes it easier to travel between countries. But the rich are still rich and the poor are still poor. Euro doesn't change anything, like many people and politicians try to make us believe. They say that this is good and that the economy will improve, etc. The main procedure of economy stays the same, but the money can flow even

faster towards the riche. It's all the same thing. It becomes a process of globalisation, we are ruled by fewer people. Less people rule millions of people. It's precisely the opposite of civilization. We are controlled by a small number of people.

Some years ago, in Portugal, stand up to PIDE (political police in the 70's) was a political act, as in the USA, being white and going to a funeral of a black person in the time of the Klu Klux Klan. Nowadays what do you think could pass as a political act?

R - Political act, what is a political act? I may be doing a political act when I go to the supermarket and buy cookies



made by a certain, instead of another. That can be political. Going to University, where I should dress in a certain way or people expect you to do so, but I simply dress as I want, can be political. It is important that the political acts are made inside our lives, doing our actions in an individual way. I don't believe in the concept of changing the world all of a sudden. I know it's a cliché when we say that we have to change ourselves first, blabla. We can't demand that a person changes if we keep on making the same mistakes. The same mistakes are different for each person: for me it's wrong to eat meat. It's wrong by countless reasons that are behind the action of eating meat and that may be a political act, simply because I'm trying to find a more peaceful and rational way of living or I'm trying to spare innocent lives. That can be a political act.

L - Basically, nowadays and speaking of ourselves, knowing what we know, a political act is the way we live our daily lives and making ourselves be known, at home, at work or with friends. It's not going to work and saying that we're vegetarian because we're sick, otherwise we'll go back to the other question, and we're talking about people that are afraid of what they don't know. If we're afraid of not being accepted and being ridiculed at work, then no change will ever happen. If you don't serve as an example, things won't change. People won't know about things and will never think for themselves, just like we didn't "think" for ourselves. We learned about things and then decided if we wanted to do it or not. Nowadays, that's what politics is all about, it's about living your own life right now and going against what you think is wrong. That right there is political. It's political when you don't eat meat and dress a specific clothing. Your lifestyle may be turned into a political action. Of course we can always go a little further...

R - ...It may be political the fact of going out with your friends and, instead of asking for the usual beer/wine, you

ask for water /soda. That confuses a lot of people. In my case, I'm 24, it still confuses some people.

L - Of course that's political and I keep on saying, when people say that Straight Edge is persona, that I have a very different view on Straight Edge. Straight Edge is still political, because it only makes sense in a political context. It is political, it is anti-social and you're avoiding the status quo in society. And when I talk about Straight Edge, obviously I'm including Veganism, because it only makes sense that way. (you can hear people clapping in the back...)

I noticed that when you talked about a political act, essentially you talked about shopping, in not buying/drinking this or that. Can that reflect the fact that we're living in the age of capitalism?

L - Basically, I was talking about buying and I go back to the question about voting to complete it: Nowadays, because I don't believe in the system, our only vote is our money. Votes are counted by the money you have and it is the only way you have of voting. When I give my money to whoever, I try that it goes to the least negative group. We are forced to consume e prefer to try and choose. Of course no one is perfect and of course I won't succeed, but I'll try. I won't give up just because I can't do it all. That's why we vote with our money.

Let's talk about music and your band. Tell us about your future releases.

R - The band is almost a year old and we've released a demo that few people know about, it was a small edition. That demo will be released in a 7" (next month) with the same songs, but recorded again, by Goodwill Records from Italy. We're going to be on a compilation by the record label of our guitar player, Best Times Records, it's going to be out on a 7" with the name "Times Still Here". It's a compilation with some Straight Edge Portuguese bands, like Through These Eyes, Time X, Mad Rats, New Winds, Fight For Change and Day of the Dead. For the future, We're working on some stuff, only time will tell. We have to make room for small projects such as a compilation released on tape by some friends of ours. It has some Portuguese bands, together with a song from Day of the Dead, a cover from Los Crudos. The compilation is called Breaking the ice.

Say what you want...

R - This zine is very important and that is why we gave such elaborate answers. We had our history and political books in our pockets, like many bands do while they answer through the Internet, which is a lot easier. Thanks for asking and giving us a chance to talk about stuff, because sometimes records or tapes are limited.

Thank you!

Talk to us, call us names, invites for parties, tells us what you think of our music and bullshit ideas at:

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Another utopic idea

Being at home can be useful for some things. That's what happened when I was reading my zines and reading my records. That's where I got the idea for this text.

Let's start with the beginning, the title.



Utopia, synonym of something that will hardly happen and, in my opinion, that's what this text is about. I had the idea/dream that the information contained inside the zines and in the band's lyrics should be made available to everyone. Seeing that not everyone can buy the information, ideally it should be distributed. All of the information contained in good zines and lyrics, essentially political should be given to people. People have the right to be informed and that access cannot be "denied" by a price tag. It should be like a new media, like television, radio (you just have to buy the receiver and you never have to pay again), but these media have some credibility problems (but should be talked about in another text). That's what I'll call to zines and records – a new media. There are so many truths and important stuff/facts inside that media and everyone should know about it. What do you think?

Maybe what would happen is that people wouldn't understand the meaning of it, because Hardcore, being a sub-culture connected with society, has a language that would be foreign to most of the population. When we talked about the system or society, they wouldn't get it. When we talked about the control of power by the capitalist machines over the world population, they would think of it as an exaggeration. This is one of the great division between society as whole and Hardcore.

Another question connected with the problem is the fact that when people become informed they would become, if organized, a threat to society as we know it. Like Kindred

said "knowledge is a dangerous weapon", so when people become aware of the existing problems, they would never give up or be led through lies. I may be mistaken, because there are a lot of problems that everybody knows about and there is no rebellion. Even so, I want to keep on believing that they could be a threat.

The problems I mentioned above are connected with those outside of Hardcore, but there are also some problems with those "inside of Hardcore". If the records and zines were to be distributed freely, what would happen is that many people that live off of Hardcore would lose their jobs. Poor things... Poor things my ass! If it were some of those that just release and distribute records and zines at a low price, I would feel sorry. But for those that only see \$\$\$ in front of their eyes, I feel nothing at all. There would be some not willing to lose their business in exchange for an aware society, even though a lot of people could equal in an equal world!

However, this idea would be hard to put together by another major/important reason – system understood this threat, they would try, by every means available (legal or not legal), to destroy this idea. The secret police of the world knows about the ideals we fight for, the struggles we have, the goals we pursue. I don't want to seem negative, but the records and zines would most likely be confiscated and burned (as it has already happened in other times of the human



history), before they got out into the hands of those that should have them.

Most likely, this idea comes from a part of me that still believes that anarco-communism may still be a solution for most of the problems in our society. Living in harmony, in a world where everyone is equal, in opportunities, rights, choices, everything. Maybe one day this dream will come true and for it to take shape it has to start somewhere. How about right now, right here... Strike the match!

João Conde

Abortion

This text is about abortion, a subject that has always been surrounded by controversy and that in the 21st century continues to be so. Maybe it's not the government that tries to close it's eyes, maybe it's a law that doesn't fulfil the requisites of a society that still tries to defend it, or maybe it's a question of faith or religious principles, I don't know, but I think it's a mix of all these reasons.

Sincerely, I have some difficulty understanding, although I have my own opinion



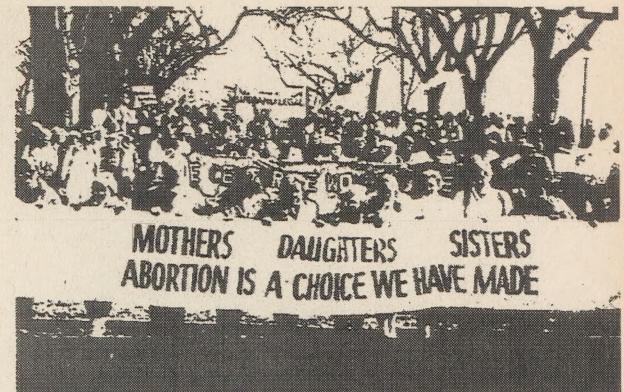
about it, but I don't know if I can write it (explain it), it's always hard to talk or write about a subject that's so problematic... cause there are always lives involved.

I'm gonna start saying that this government tries by all means to avoid and ignore the subject, tries to hide something that

everyone has already seen. We should try to inform, to educate this society, teenagers, especially the girls to avoid an unexpected pregnancy. This information should start in school with the implementation of a new school discipline – Sexual Education – starting here would be a lot easier to avoid it, because the information would be directly given to the teenagers and they would not have to search for it. Maybe like this, abortion could stop being seen as a tabu subject.

Concerning the abortion Portuguese law, I think that it's missing some things, the law has a bad structure and can't avoid abortion, because they are made illegally, and one more time the government closes it's eyes... Doctors most of the time refuse to practice abortion, even in cases where the law allows it, because they are afraid for their career, they are afraid of being judged and considered as monsters by most of the people. So, women are afraid of being judged too, they go to illegal clinics with no technique and hygiene. They give their lives to people that just want to earn some money. These women suffer a lot of psychological damage and physical damage that will make their lives miserable forever, maybe end their possibility of having kids or even

death. The social environment where they come



from is important too: if a person is rich, it can go to a clinic full of good stuff (why aren't the people connected to the government afraid of the abortion law?), in case of being poor, they are fucked, because they can be lucky and get a good doctor, or a guy that just cuts you up.

Religion is an issue that is always on the Portuguese mind and this is why abortion is considered a crime, because the church condemned every form of abortion, even the legal one's.

"It wasn't god that created Man by his image, it was Man that created god, because of his fears and aspirations", well, Man follows himself, it was him that created god, why do we believe in a church that is failing every time? I think it's time to wake up.

Women are exposed to every kind of accusations when they try to fight for an equal law and the truth is that they are still being condemned by their choices.

In my opinion, abortion should be used as a last resort and not as 2nd condom, because in the end we're all talking about lives. The right to choose is, as I see it, the most logical choice, but with a good law, with all those items that were forgotten in the last one. Abortion should be conscious act and never a form of escaping responsibility.

Ana Luz



STRAIGHT X EDGE

THE FEW AND THE PROUD



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